

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Niederberger et al.
Serial No. : 10/593,600
Filing Date : May 16, 2007
For : Articulated Bone Screw
Group Art Unit : 3775
Confirmation No. : 1693
Examiner : Matthew James Lawson

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1. In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in conformance with the procedures of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609, attorneys for Applicants hereby bring the following six (6) references to the attention of the Examiner. The references are listed on the attached modified PTO Form No. 1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. In particular, the references were cited in the Japanese Office Action which was issued by on March 10, 2010.

2. A copy of each foreign patent, publication or other information, if any, listed on the modified PTO form 1449 is enclosed. However, U.S. Patents and U.S. Publications are not enclosed herewith.
3. By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants make no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.
4. By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants make no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).
5. By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants make no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 3, 2010

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